

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003
CAREY, ID**

Chairman Daryle James called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Roger Parker, Bob Simpson, Chuck Pentzer, Lynn Harmon, Kevin Davidson, Jack Straubhar, Mark Dallon, Bob Bolte, Stephen N. Thompson, DEQ representative Jennifer Claire and Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for September 23, 2003 were reviewed. Bob Bolte made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Roger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

No TAC meeting was held.

WAG WEB SITE: Roger reported that he has set up the web sites and is in need of assistance from the members regarding what information they would like to have on the sites.

He reminded the group that we still need to develop a mission statement. Daryle said that Vernon Ravenscroft had called him concerning the mission statement but he had inadvertently left the notes at home. Jack suggested that under Article V of the By-Laws, items number 1 & 2 could be condensed into a mission statement.

Other suggestions for the site included WAG duties; list of agencies within the WAG boundaries; meeting dates and times of meetings; grant application information, including viewing, applying and previous projects; definitions; TMDL's; access to the DEQ web site.

Stephen said that the Soil Conservation Commission activities and grants would be worthwhile as well. Lynn recommended that various educational items would also be good. The site also needs to let the viewer know that the WAG **does not have the authority to fund grants but can support projects**. Bob felt that Article XI limits the Board in incurring any debt for projects. The legislature has not authorized WAG's to fund projects.

Roger said that a drop down list with a flow table would work well for what the Board has suggested. He would possibly start with the main menu then drop down to information about the WAG, then on down for grant applications and etc. It is important that the site structure be user friendly. Jack felt that we need to have a glossary at the beginning as well.

Stephen felt Article XIII, "Goals & Objectives", could be used for a mission statement. Roger will contact Jo to see if she will condense Article XIII into a mission statement.

It was decided that no changes would be proposed in the By-Laws at this time.

Daryle asked Roger to proceed with the ideas he has so far. Roger asked for a copy of the Executive Board and TAC advisory committee.

NPDES PERMIT ON GLANBIA-GOODING FOR NON CONTACT COOLING WATER:

Jennifer presented a memorandum dated October 29 to the Board from Dr. Balthasar B. Buhidar, Ph. D., Regional Manager – Water Quality Protection, concerning a NPDES permit on Glanbia-Gooding for non-contact cooling water. It contained the Fact Sheet and Draft permit for Glanbia

Foods, Inc. Gooding Plant for their non-contact cooling water discharge into the Little Wood River, east of Gooding, Idaho. Persons wishing to comment on or request a Public Hearing for the Draft NPDES Permit may do so in writing by the expiration date of the Public Notice, which is November 24, 2003. Draft permits, Fact Sheets and other information can be found by visiting the EPA Region 10 website at www.epa.gov/r10earth/water.htm. The Fact Sheet and draft permit are also available by calling the EPA in Boise at 208-378-5746.

Jennifer also said that Sonny was concerned about the article that appeared in the Times News on October 23, 2003 about the clean up of Little Wood River. There are permits that need to be acquired if any stumps are removed from the stream banks. Cutting trees do not require a permit unless the banks and stream is encroached on. A Stream Channel Alteration Permit is required if anything is done along the bank or in the river. Daryle will contact the city with the concerns expressed by those in attendance.

HULEN MEADOWS: Jo Lowe reported through Dana that Blaine County is waiting to hear from Todd McGuire, DEQ, in regards to the proposed Hulen Meadows project. She has been informed that the BLM and Forest Service are considering a project at Lake Creek Trailhead to avert flooding in the spring. This may eliminate the need to dredge sediment from a pond by Hulen Meadows.

LITTLE WOOD RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT: Bob Simpson distributed a letter concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Gravity Pressurized Irrigation Deliver System. The Irrigation District is the primary sponsor with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as Lead Agency. Under the proposed action the open irrigation canals will be replaced with a gravity pressurized pipeline irrigation delivery system. The pipeline distribution system follows the general route of the existing east and west canals through the project area. Seven hundred Eighty acres of surface irrigated cropland will be converted to sprinkler irrigation. Some existing canals will be reshaped to maintain existing flood protection. These floodways will allow for an additional seventy acres of crop production. Booster pumps will be required for on-farm systems in the upper reaches of the irrigation district.

You are invited to review and comment on the range and adequacy of the draft alternatives and associated environmental effects. The comment period will end 45 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability of this draft Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, Idaho, 83709-1574. For additional information or clarification regarding the documents or the review process, contact Maureen Meagher, Soil Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Shoshone, telephone 208-886-2258 or e-mail her at: Maureen.Meagher@id.usda.gov.

Bob said the draft is now available and on the web site. The Public Comment period ends December 7, 2003.

November 25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. was set for the meeting in Carey. There will be no meeting in December. The January meeting will be held on the 27th in Fairfield at 7:00 p.m. at the Sawtooth Forest Service Office. **(Please note the time change for the winter meetings.)**

Meeting adjourned.

Daryle James, Chairman